

REMARKS

This response is filed in reply to the non-final Office Action mailed October 3, 2006. Claims 1, 6,-9, and 14-16 have been amended and claims 2, 3, 10 and 11 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 4-9, and 12-19 are now pending in the application. Thus, claims 1, 4-9, and 12-19 are respectfully submitted for reconsideration and passage to allowance.

A. Rejection under 37 USC 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-19 under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Weisman et al. (US Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0047461). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 9, as amended, now recite receiving a pin number from a first device, determining if the pin number is a valid pin number, if so, receiving, at the second device, a first destination number provided by the first device, where the first destination number corresponds to a potential conference, establishing a communication connection between the first device and the destination number in response to receiving the first destination number; receiving a first code from the first device in response to establishing a communication connection between the first device and the destination number; and determining whether the first code is a add code; if so, maintaining the communication connection established between the first destination number and the first device as a conference call otherwise, releasing the communication connection

established between the first destination number and the first device. The present invention validates a pin that is provided by a pre-paid call conferencing system. The system evaluates the status of the pin to determine if it is an active pin and the amount of funds available for the pin. If it is determined that the pin is active and there are funds available a user can initiate the call conferencing capabilities of the system. Once the call conferencing capabilities of the system are initiated a user can add user to a conference call by dialing the number for the potential conference. Once a connection is established with the number, the user can enter a code to indicate that the potential conferencee should be added to a conference call or not. If the code to add the potential conferencee is entered, the connection with the number of the potential conference is maintained as part of the conference call. If the code to reject the potential conferencee is entered, then the connection with the number is released.

Weisman merely discloses providing pre-paid call conferencing services. Weisman discloses initiating a conference call by the selection of participants from a menu or the creating a conference call. See page 10, paragraph 136, page 12, paragraph 155. Participants can join a conference call by selecting a join conference control. See page 10, paragraph 137. To initiate a conference call, the creating participant must enter topic data. See page 14, paragraph 184. This topic data is used by other participants when they are searching or identifying a conference call in which to join. Weisman fails to disclose any of the limitation now recited by claims 1 and 9. In Weisman, a creating participant does not perform any of the limitations recited in claims 1 and 9. In sum,

Weisman allows for the creation of a conference call that can be joined by parties. Weisman fails to teach, inter alia, determining if the pin number is a valid pin number, if so, receiving, at the second device, a first destination number provided by the first device, where the first destination number corresponds to a potential conference, establishing a communication connection between the first device and the destination number in response to receiving the first destination number; receiving a first code from the first device in response to establishing a communication connection between the first device and the destination number; and determining whether the first code is a add code; if so, maintaining the communication connection established between the first destination number and the first device as a conference call otherwise, releasing the communication connection established between the first destination number and the first device.

Claims 4-8 depend from claim 1 and claims 12-19 depend from claim 9. Claims 4-8 and 12-19 are not taught for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claims 1 and 9.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is allowable over the references relied upon in the Office Action. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of this case and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner feel further communication would facilitate prosecution, he is urged to call the undersigned at the phone number provided below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any

DCiManage/9334659.1

overpayment associated with this application to Deposit Account No. 19-5127
(25025.0003).

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 3, 2007

By: _____

Chadwick A. Jackson, Reg. No. 46,495
Bingham McCutchen LLP
2020 K Street, NW,
Washington, D.C. 20007
(202) 373-6661 Telephone